MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): With reference to the answer to part (*c*) of the question, may I know who attends to maternity cases?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Paysician*): The Medical Officer.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon II*): May I know why Government think that the opening of a maternity ward and the appointment of a lady doctor in the hospital are not urgent requirements?

MR. JAMES SIMPSON (*Darbar Physician*): Government, as the result of enquiry into the matter, are of this opinion,

Road from Aroor-Shertala road to the Tirumala temple.

3. ✻MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry North*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they propose to construct a road in the near future leading from the Aroor-Shertala road to the Tirumala temple at Turavoor and

(*b*) whether they are aware of the great inconveniences and difficulties, especially in the rainy season, caused to the people and to the students attending the High School attached to the temple, for want of a road?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

MR. M. K. JANARDANA KAMATH (*Commerce and Industry, North*): May I know from the member whether any work is going on now?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, the question is whether Government propose to construct a road, and I do not know whether work is going on now or not.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member whether the site necessary for the construction of the road has been handed over?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I believe it has been.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): May I know whether the work will be taken up soon?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): Yes.

MR. POTTAYIL S. KRISHNA PANICKAR (*Shertala II*): Will it be finished soon?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer*): I hope so.

Attingal Municipal Council.

4. ✻MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there was a non-official President for the Attingal Municipality;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, in which year the non-official President was replaced by the official President;

(*c*) whether there is a demand for a non-official President for the said Municipality;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(*d*) whether, at the recent municipal conference at Alleppey, a resolution was passed demanding a non-official President for the Attingal Municipality; and

(*e*) what action the Government have taken upon the said resolution?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 22-3-1927.

(*c*) Certain resolutions were passed by the Municipal Council asking for a non-official President.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) It is under the consideration of Government.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): With reference to the answer to part (*a*), may I know from the Government why the system of non-official President was discontinued in that Municipality?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was found that under the non-official President the affairs of the Municipality got into confusion and Government thought that it would be better to have an official President at least for some time.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the Government whether a chance was given for the Municipal Council to elect any other non-official President on account of the confusion during the time of the former President?

PRESIDENT: Is not Mr. Nair satisfied with the answer to part (*e*)?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Yes, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Why, then, wash all the past dirty linen?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): It is not that, Sir. It is said that on account of the mismanagement or some sort of confusion that prevailed in the Municipality under the non-official President, the system of non-official President was discontinued. My question is whether any chance was given to the Municipal Council to elect another non-official President and to see whether the administration of the Municipality was not better.

PRESIDENT: What I was trying to impress on the member was that the matter of the re-appointment of a non-official President is now under the consideration of the Government.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know why that matter was not considered when it was discontinued?

PRESIDENT: You do not bring about a change all at once.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): The system was discontinued on 22-3-1927. My question is why a chance was not given at that time to the Municipal Council to elect some other non-official President in order to manage the affairs of the Municipality.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, the question of allowing the Municipal Council to elect a non-official President was considered by Government on different occasions since 22-3-1927 and the last occasion when it was considered by Government was about a year ago. The Division Peishkar and the Account Officer were asked to examine the accounts and the affairs of the Municipality and to send up a report. They reported that the affairs of the Municipality were still not in proper form and they thought that at least for one year more the Municipality should continue under an official President. That year will expire by April next, and, as the answer to part (*e*) of the question shows, the matter is now under the consideration of Government. If the affairs of the Municipality have improved, Government may probably allow the Council to elect its own non-official President.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): With reference to the answer to part (*a*) of the question, may I know whether the affairs of the Municipality were deteriorating at the time of one particular non-official President or all through the period of non-official Presidents?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : They were found to be deteriorating under the non-official President and Government thought it necessary to have an official President.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : It has been answered by the member that last year the report submitted by the Division Peishkar shows that the affairs have not yet resumed proper form. May I know the nature of action taken by Government against the official Presidents who were in charge of the Municipality from 1927 till the date of inspection by the Division Peishkar?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : The official President did not commit any irregularity. The irregularities left to him as a legacy by the non-official President had to be removed and he has been at it. When the Municipality was inspected a year ago, all the irregularities had not been completely removed and Government hope that in the course of the year, that is, before April 1935, all the irregularities will have been removed; and if it is so, they may then consider the question of allowing the Council to elect a non-official President.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : May I know from the member the nature of the irregularities and confusion which in the opinion of Governmet an official President in preference to a non-official can set right?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : They are mostly connected with account matters.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Is it the Government's view that wherever account matters are concerned non-officials cannot be trusted in preference to officials?

PRESIDENT : I object to that general question about the respective merits of officials and non-officials.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*) : Is it because the Government thought that they could exercise greater control over an official than over a non-official, they preferred an official President ?

PRESIDENT : Under the circumstances of that Municipality. We are again not generalising.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : May I know from the member whether the members of the Attingal Municipal Council were consulted with regard to the appointment of an official President ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not think so.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : Did Government enquire whether there was any non-official in that locality who would be able to function properly as President before the official President was appointed ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The non-official President who functioned was found to be wanting and the affairs of the Municipality became so bad that Government thought that it would be wise to entrust the administration of the Municipality to an official President for some time. Government did not therefore consider it necessary to enquire whether there was any other non-official in the locality to take charge of that Municipality.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : My question is whether Government thought that no non-official President would be able to remove the defects which were found.

PRESIDENT : The view of Government, as has been stated already at the time, was that in the interests of the Municipality they ought to put in an official President.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*) : Were the Government of the view that no non-official could put things in order ?

PRESIDENT : I am sorry the question does not arise in-as-much as the Government member tells you that at the time the state of affairs in that Municipality was so hopeless that the only conclusion which the Government could arrive at was that those affairs should be entrusted to the charge of an official and they did so. Therefore, further questions about the search for other men in the locality do not at all arise.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know how many official Presidents functioned since the first was appointed ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : At first the official President was the Headmaster of the local English High School and subsequently the Tahsildar was appointed as the President. At present the Tahsildar is the official President.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : May I know how many officials have functioned as Presidents ?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I am sorry, Sir, I have not got the information.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*) : Am I to understand that these official Presidents have not been able to set right matters during the last seven years ?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already answered, Sir, that the confusion was so great that it has not been possible to set right matters till now and that during the last inspection by the Division Peishkar and the Account Officer it was found that probably in the course of another year matters might be alright. It is now under the consideration of Government whether by April 1935 the Municipal Council should not be given the choice of electing a non-official President.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Do Government realise that it is because officers, who have other legitimate work to attend to, are put in charge, that the affairs are not set right?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be so; but then, the Municipality cannot afford, I am afraid, to pay a full-time official President. So the only thing under the circumstances was to appoint a local officer to be in charge of the Municipality in addition to his own duties.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member whether there were Government officers as members of the Council while the non-official President was functioning?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes, there were.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): Did any such Government officer bring to the notice of Government the fact that the condition of the Municipality was deteriorating?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot answer that question off hand. I claim notice.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know further how much of the irregularities now alleged to have been committed by the non-official President was the result of corporate action of the Municipal Council?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know further how much of the so-called irregularities have been investigated as directly traceable to the President's action?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): An investigation into the irregularities was made by the Division Peishkar and the Account Officer and on the reports received from them Government decided the question. What the exact proportion of responsibility of the President and the Municipal Council is, I cannot say.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member whether, as a matter of fact, anything could have been dissociated from the corporate action of the Municipality?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have nothing to add to what I have already stated.

PRESIDENT: The general condition of affairs in the Municipality was found to be unsatisfactory and therefore Government appointed an official President.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know from the member whether there was any mismanagement or confusion in the Municipality so as to necessitate the appointment of an official President?

PRESIDENT: It has been answered already that the mismanagement is being gradually removed, and I do not think there has been any further confusion or mismanagement.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know whether it is a fact that the confusion arose on account of the mischief of a clerk in that Municipality?

PRESIDENT That does not arise.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): May I know the nature of the irregularity found against that Municipality?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Irregularities in collection and mismanagement of revenues.

PRESIDENT: There was general mismanagement of revenues in short.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Was there any defalcation?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the back file to answer that question.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): May I know whether the Government have ascertained whether the irregularity existed due to the incompetency of the person who was President at that particular time or whether it was due to the functioning of non-official Presidents?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have already said that at the time when the municipal affairs were examined, it was found to be so bad that Government thought that, under a non-official President, things would not improve. They did not enquire at the time whether there was any other non-official gentleman who could take over the management of the Municipality.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): My question is whether the Government have tried to ascertain whether the irregularities were due to the fact that there was a non-official President functioning then.

PRESIDENT: The action of Government in putting an official President over the affairs of the Municipality answers that question.

Sub-Registrar's Office at Nagercoil.

5. * **MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI** (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they received any proposal to construct an office for the Sub-Registrar Cutcherry at Nagercoil;

(*b*) if so, when;

(*c*) whether any estimate was prepared therefor;

(*d*) if so, when it was so prepared;

(*e*) whether that work has been begun; and

(*f*) if not, why not?

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly